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# THE Livestock and Wool SITUATION

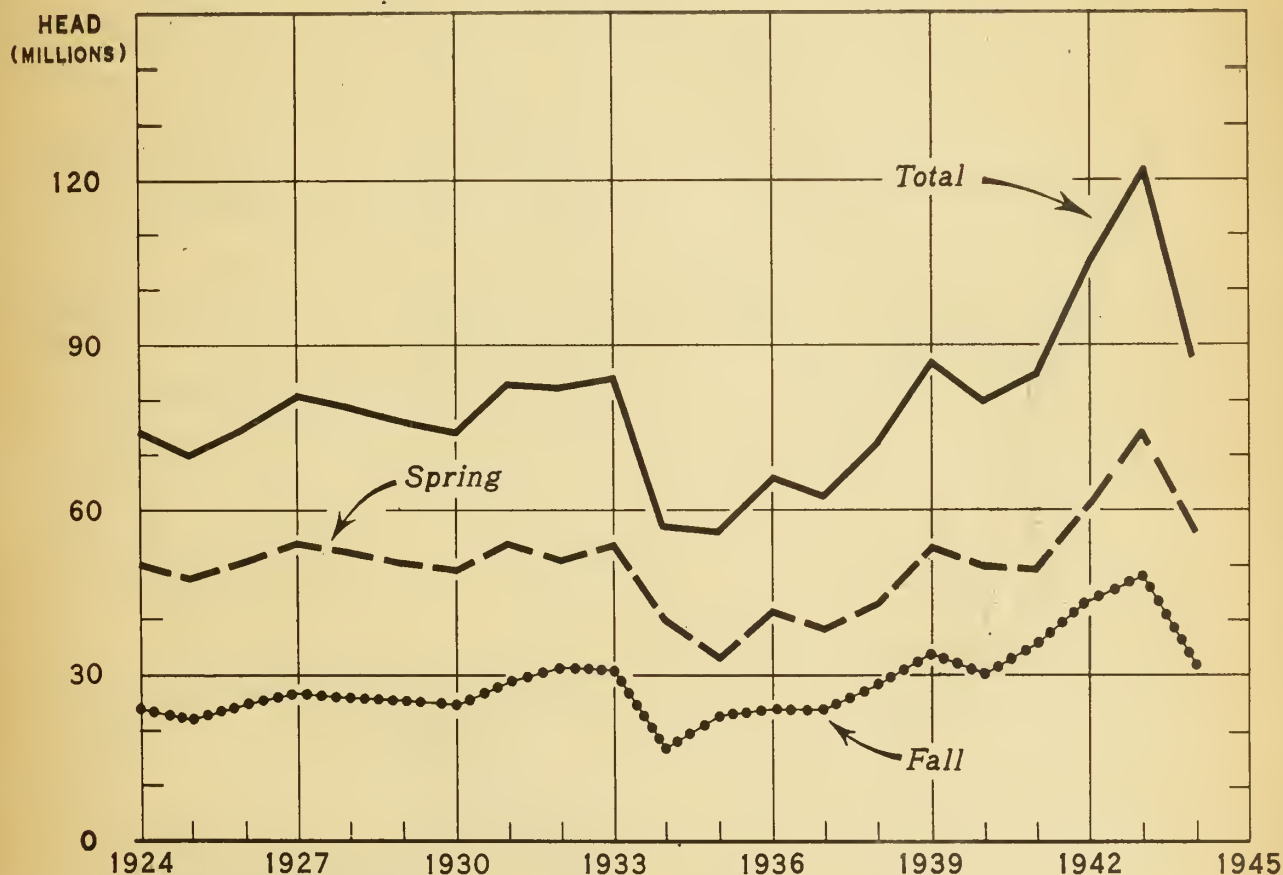
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LWS - 27



JULY 1944

## SPRING, FALL, AND TOTAL PIG CROPS, UNITED STATES, 1924-44



DATA FOR 1944 ARE PRELIMINARY

\*FALL PIG CROP BASED ON SOWS INDICATED TO FARROW AND 1938-42 AVERAGE NUMBER OF PIGS SAVED PER LITTER

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 39337

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Almost 56 million pigs were saved this spring, a reduction of 24 percent from the record spring crop last year. The fall pig crop is indicated to be about 32 million head, the smallest fall crop since 1940 and 33 percent less than the record 1943 fall crop of 48 million head. Although both fall and spring crops will be sharply reduced from last year, an annual pig crop of 88 million head in 1944 would be the third largest on record.

# FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER OF SHEEP AND LAMBS IN COMPARABLE PLANTS. AVERAGE 1938-42 AND 1943-44

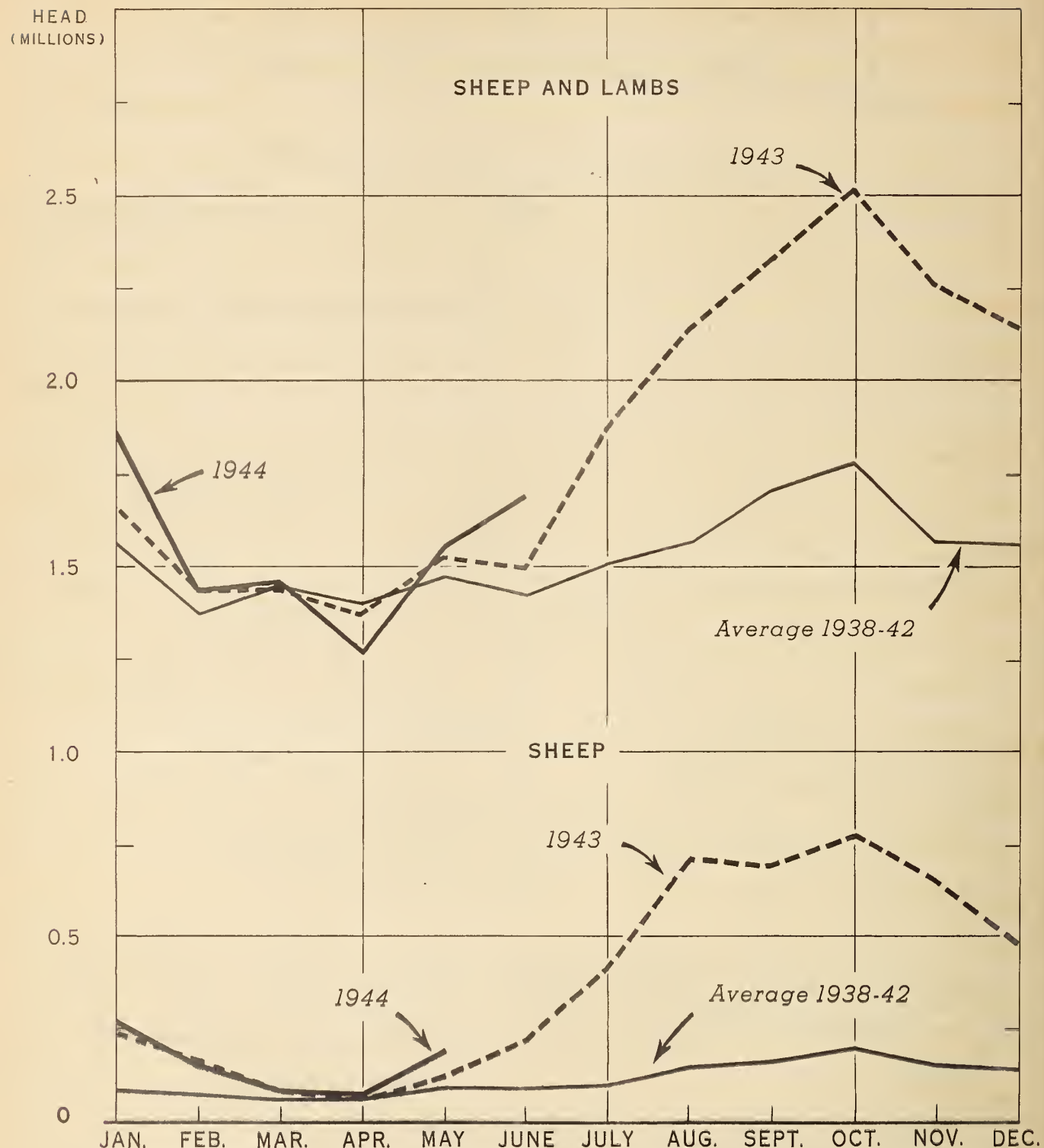


FIGURE 1.

Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs during the last half of 1943 was much larger than the 5-year average. This was mainly the result of a much larger than normal slaughter of ewes. A relatively large slaughter of ewes probably will take place during the last part of this year. However, lamb slaughter is likely to be less than in the second half of 1943, reflecting a smaller lamb crop this year than last.

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L I V E S T O C K   A N D   W O O L   S I T U A T I O N

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Summary

A new all-time record meat output -- perhaps reaching 25 billion pounds of dressed meat -- is in prospect for 1944. This total would be a 4-percent increase over the estimated production of 24.2 billion pounds in 1943. Output of both beef and veal is expected to be considerably larger this year than last. Although hog slaughter in 1944 may total 100 million head, exceeding last year's kill by about 5 million, pork output may be slightly smaller because of lighter weights of hogs. Output of lamb and mutton may be about 10 percent smaller this year than last.

Hog slaughter reached an all-time peak in the first quarter, when 22 million head were slaughtered under Federal inspection. For the first 6 months of the year inspected hog slaughter, totaling 41 million head, was 37 percent greater than a year earlier. Hog marketings will be seasonally reduced during the summer, but may be slightly larger than last summer. The seasonal upturn in marketings after October 1 will be much less pronounced this year than usual, reflecting the 24-percent reduction in the 1944 spring pig crop. Hog slaughter in the last quarter is likely to be about 15 percent lower than in the last quarter of 1943 and at least 10 percent less than in the first quarter of 1944. Prices of hogs rose above support levels in early July, and probably will be close to ceiling levels during most of the summer and early fall.

JULY 1944

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Cattle marketings, now increasing seasonally, are expected to be larger than those of a year earlier throughout the remainder of 1944. Prices of cattle and calves probably will average lower than last year, although prices of well-finished grain-fed cattle, which are in reduced supply, may continue high. Cattle feeding may increase this fall and winter over last year. Present crop indications point to larger feed-grain supplies in relation to livestock numbers this fall and winter than last. Feeder cattle prices are materially lower now than at this time last year, and prospects are favorable for a continuation of relatively high prices for fed cattle in the early part of 1945.

With a reduced lamb crop, and smaller marketings of lambs in prospect for the remainder of this year compared with last, lamb prices are expected to average above last year's levels. Marketings of ewes were relatively large in the first 6 months of 1944, reflecting a tendency to reduce sheep numbers, and such marketings may continue relatively large during the balance of the year.

The average price received by farmers for wool in mid-June was 42 cents a pound, the highest price reported for any June since 1919, and except for April and May last year (when dealers and mills contracted large quantities of wool at relatively high prices before the Government purchase program was inaugurated) the highest of any month since early 1925. About 129 million pounds of 1944 shorn wool had been appraised for purchase by the Commodity Credit Corporation to July 15. Appraisals of 1944 pulled wool totaled 31 million pounds through July 15. This included 12 million pounds of scoured wool.

Mill consumption of apparel wool for the first 5 months of this year was at an annual rate of 610 million pounds, scoured basis. This compares



with an annual rate of 623 million pounds during the corresponding months last year and a total of 592 million pounds for the entire year 1943. In view of present military contracts, prospects appear favorable for maintaining the current high rate of mill consumption during the remainder of the year.

-- July 19, 1944

#### OUTLOOK

Meat Output may Total  
25 Billion Pounds  
in 1944

Total meat production in 1944 probably will establish a new record. Present indications are that the total output of all meats will be about 25 billion pounds (dressed meat basis). This would be 3 percent larger than the previous record production of 24.2 billion pounds in 1943 and would be more than 1-1/2 times average production in the years 1935-39. Beef production may be 10 percent larger than output last year and veal production may be 20 percent larger. On the other hand, pork production in 1944 may be slightly lower than the large production in 1943 and lamb and mutton output may be 10 to 12 percent less. However, lamb and mutton production represents less than 5 percent of the total output of meats.

Hog Slaughter at All-Time High;  
to be Smaller This Fall  
Than Last

Hog slaughter in 1944 is expected to exceed the 95 million head slaughtered in 1943 by about 5 million head. Total slaughter of hogs in the first 9 months this year will be very large because of the marketing of the largest part of the all-time record 1943 spring pig crop and most of the 1943 fall pig crop in that period. Large marketings of 1943 spring pigs last winter overtaxed the ability of packing houses to slaughter hogs as fast as they arrived at terminal markets. This resulted in congested markets and short-time embargoes on shipments of hogs to many markets until unsold supplies could be disposed of. These conditions delayed marketings and were partially responsible for heavy market weights of 1943 spring pigs. Hogs produced in the 1943 fall crop, on the other hand, have tended to be marketed early, the result of short supplies of corn and other feed grains in many areas. Consequently, the average weights of hogs marketed during the late spring and early summer were lighter than during the last 3 years when hog-feed price relationships were more favorable and feed-grain supplies were more abundant.

Despite the large slaughter of hogs that has taken place so far this year, there is still a relatively large number of hogs available for slaughter during the summer. On June 1 there were 34.5 million hogs over 6 months old on farms. This compared with 36.3 million head on farms on that date last

year. But considering the reduced number of sows that will farrow this fall compared with last, there was a slightly larger number of hogs over 6 months old available for slaughter than there were on June 1, 1943. Many of these hogs will be slaughtered by the end of September. Slaughter during the last quarter of the year, however, will be materially less than slaughter during the same period of 1943, because of the 24-percent reduction in the spring pig crop this year compared with last.

Table 1.- Hogs over 6 months old on farms June 1 and sows farrowing in the fall, 1935-44

Year	Hogs over 6 months, June 1	Sows farrowing in fall
	Million	Million
1935	19.6	3.9
1936	21.3	4.0
1937	20.6	3.8
1938	20.7	4.5
1939	24.7	5.4
1940	27.7	4.8
1941	25.1	5.5
1942	29.4	6.8
1943	36.3	7.6
1944	34.5	1/ 5.0

1/ Indicated from farmers' breeding intentions on June 1.

A 1944 spring pig crop of 56 million head and a fall crop of 32 million head, as indicated by the June pig crop survey, would result in total slaughter during the hog marketing year beginning October 1, 1944 of 75 to 80 million head. Slaughter during the present hog-marketing year may be about 105 million head.

There was a seasonally increasing percentage of sows in total hog marketings in June. In July-September more than one-third of the federally inspected slaughter probably will be sows. The proportion of sows to total marketings will decrease in the last 3 months of the year. In 1943 the percentages of sows in federally inspected slaughter, by months, were July 34, August 39, September 35, October 24, November 18, and December 16.

Lard production this year may be larger than last year by about 325 million pounds. This will be because of a larger slaughter of hogs and a larger yield of lard per 100 pounds of hog. Lard yield per 100 pounds of live hog under federal inspection in January-May was 14.4 pounds compared with 12.4 pounds last year. Pork supplies for civilians were very large during the first 6 months of 1944. Also WFA purchases of fat cuts were smaller this year. This caused a closer trimming of pork cuts and the rendering of a larger proportion of fat cuts than during the same period last year.



Cattle and Calf Slaughter Up  
4 Million Head from 1943

Cattle and calf slaughter for 1944 is expected to total 32 million head if slaughter throughout the last half of the year is in a normal relationship to slaughter during the first half. While a slaughter of 32 million head would exceed that in 1943 by over 4 million head, it would not be unduly large in relation to the large numbers of cattle on farms. Slaughter of cattle and calves in the first 9 months of 1943 was low in relation to the number of cattle and calves on farms. As yet there has been no marked tendency for cattlemen to increase marketings sufficiently to cause a reduction in numbers on hand. Cattle slaughter will increase seasonally through October when marketings from western ranges reach their largest volume.

Lamb Slaughter Less This Year  
Than Last

While total sheep and lamb slaughter in the first 6 months of 1944 was slightly greater than in the same period of 1943, slaughter for the year is expected to be lower than last year. Lamb slaughter from January through June was less than last year, but sheep slaughter was greater. Slaughter of lambs during the last half of the year probably will be smaller than last year, reflecting a smaller lamb crop. Also, there may be a larger movement of lambs to feed this year than last, especially if feed crop production is equal to present indications and fall wheat pastures in the Plains States are better than last year. Ewe slaughter is expected to continue large throughout the remainder of the year. Slaughter of both sheep and lambs will increase seasonally through October.

Table 2.- Estimated livestock slaughter, average 1935-39;  
 annual 1940-43, and forecast 1944

Item	Average : : 1935-39 :	1940	1941	1942	1943 1/	1944 (forecast)
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>Cattle:</b>						
Inspected .....	2/ 10,024	9,756	10,946	12,347	11,727	
Noninspected .....	4,455	4,644	4,916	5,047	3/ 5,416	
Farm .....	591	571	571	587	572	
Total .....	15,070	14,971	16,433	17,981	17,715	20,000
<b>Calves:</b>						
Inspected .....	4/ 5,765	5,359	5,461	5,760	5,209	
Noninspected .....	3,117	3,003	3,107	3,317	3/ 4,111	
Farm .....	804	728	684	625	594	
Total .....	9,686	9,090	9,252	9,702	9,914	12,000
<b>Hogs:</b>						
Inspected .....	34,262	50,398	46,520	53,897	63,431	
Noninspected .....	8,871	13,057	12,088	12,117	3/ 17,779	
Farm .....	13,656	14,155	12,789	12,463	14,063	
Total .....	56,789	77,610	71,397	78,477	95,273	100,000
<b>Sheep and lambs:</b>						
Inspected .....	17,486	17,351	18,125	21,625	23,363	
Noninspected .....	3,699	3,651	3,605	3,383	3,134	
Farm .....	624	581	582	578	576	
Total .....	21,809	21,583	22,312	25,586	27,073	24,000

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes 187,000 cattle in 1935 and 4,000 in 1936 slaughtered for Government account. 3/ Probably includes an indeterminable number of animals slaughtered on farms for nonfarmers and slaughtered by or for nonfarmers for their own use. 4/ Includes 39,000 calves slaughtered for Government account in 1935.

Table 3.- Estimated meat and lard production, average 1935-39, annual 1940-43, and forecast 1944

Item	Average 1935-39	1940	1941	1942	1943 1/	1944 (forecast)
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
<u>Meat production (dressed meat basis)</u>						
Beef:						
Inspected .....	2/ 4,847	4,971	5,739	6,347	5,970	
Noninspected .....	1,858	1,984	2,126	2,249	2,336	
Farm .....	231	227	227	235	230	
Total .....	6,936	7,182	8,092	8,831	8,536	9,410
Veal:						
Inspected .....	3/ 615	568	599	667	597	
Noninspected .....	335	328	354	399	475	
Farm .....	88	82	76	73	70	
Total .....	1,038	978	1,029	1,139	1,142	1,370
Pork, excluding lard:						
Inspected .....	4,584	6,614	6,345	7,562	9,308	
Noninspected .....	1,037	1,546	1,473	1,571	2,282	
Farm .....	1,716	1,798	1,629	1,590	1,781	
Total .....	7,337	9,958	9,447	10,723	13,371	13,250
Lamb and mutton:						
Inspected .....	696	702	750	880	958	
Noninspected .....	148	150	150	140	124	
Farm .....	27	25	25	25	25	
Total .....	871	877	925	1,045	1,107	970
Total meat, excluding lard:						
Inspected .....	10,742	12,855	13,433	15,456	16,833	
Noninspected .....	3,378	4,008	4,103	4,359	5,217	
Farm .....	2,062	2,132	1,957	1,923	2,106	
Total .....	16,182	18,995	19,493	21,738	24,156	25,000
Lard and rendered pork fat:						
Inspected .....	944	1,527	1,526	1,724	2,080	
Noninspected .....	219	327	312	312	496	
Farm .....	467	489	443	433	485	
Total .....	1,630	2,343	2,281	2,469	3,061	3,390

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Includes an estimated 57 million pounds of beef produced under the emergency Government relief purchase program in 1935.

3/ Includes an estimated 5 million pounds of veal produced under the emergency Government relief purchase program in 1935.



Hog Prices Likely to Remain at  
Ceiling Levels; Cattle Prices  
to Average Lower than in 1943.

Prices of Medium weight butcher hogs at Chicago rose from the support level during the week ended July 8 for the first time since April. A further rise in hog prices is expected in late July and August, and prices may be at ceilings during the summer and early fall. However, ceiling prices for live hogs, established last October, will limit prices to a lower level than last year during the late summer and early fall. The present ceiling price on live hogs weighing up to 240 pounds is \$14.75 (Chicago basis) and on weights over 240 pounds it is \$14.00.

Hog prices in November and December are likely to be higher than in the same months of last year when a seasonal price decline occurred. Average prices received by farmers for hogs in October, November, and December 1943 were \$14.00, \$12.90, and \$12.80, respectively. Marketings will be materially less this winter than last when congested hog marketing facilities and large slaughter supplies depressed prices to support levels. A short supply of packing-house labor will again be a problem this winter, but hog slaughter supplies should not be burdensome on packing-house facilities. Hog-corn price ratios may become more favorable this summer than in recent months, but probably will continue less favorable than a year earlier at least until next winter.

Prices for cattle and calves may average lower in the last half of this year than in the corresponding period last year. Marketings are expected to be materially larger. However, total meat supplies for civilians during the last part of the year are likely to be smaller than during the first 6 months of the year. This will tend to strengthen prices for all meat animals. Prices of Good, Choice, and Prime slaughter steers and heifers, which will be in relatively short supply, are likely to continue high. In the last half of 1944 prices for stocker and feeder cattle are expected to average considerably lower than during the last half of 1943.

Lamb prices may be higher during the last half of this year than last. Slaughter supplies will be smaller because of this year's smaller lamb crop.

Cattle Feeding May Increase This  
Fall and Winter

Prices of Good and Choice and Prime cattle are now higher than they were at this time a year ago, while prices of other grades of slaughter cattle are generally at lower levels. Although shipments of cattle into 8 Corn Belt States for feeding were smaller in the first 5 months of this year than in the same months of 1943, they were larger than a year earlier in June and may continue large in the last half of this year. Factors favoring increased feeding of cattle this fall are: (1) Materially lower prices for feeder cattle and a large prospective supply of cattle suitable for feeding to be marketed this fall, (2) probable continuation of relatively high prices for fed cattle throughout the winter and spring, (3) favorable prospects for large harvests of feed grains and hay, and (4) an indicated reduction of 10 to 15 percent in the number of grain-consuming animal units on

farms next fall and winter compared with last. However, feed costs this fall and winter probably will be somewhat higher than last year. In mid-June the price received by farmers for corn was \$1.15 per bushel compared with \$1.06 a year earlier. The mid-June price for hay was \$15.00 per ton this year and \$12.20 a year earlier.

Table 4.- Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves into eight Corn Belt States, 1941-44 1/

Month	1941	1942	1943	1944
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
January .....	132	122	104	92
February .....	95	79	85	71
March .....	102	103	138	73
April .....	138	154	142	84
May .....	124	115	99	74
June .....	95	99	81	106
January-June ....	686	672	649	500
July .....	104	91	64	
August .....	181	222	160	
September .....	327	387	400	
October .....	498	579	546	
November .....	368	391	382	
December .....	232	223	162	
July-December ..	1,710	1,892	1,714	
Year .....	2,396	2,564	2,363	

1/ Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska.

The average price received for feeder and stocker steers at Kansas City for the week ended July 14 was \$10.34 compared with \$12.86 for the corresponding week a year earlier. Recent declines in prices of lower grade cattle have widened the spread between these grades and those of better finished cattle.

The supply of feed grains for feeding during the crop year 1944-45 from domestic production and carry-over may total about 125 million tons on the basis of July 1 crop conditions. This would be 17 million tons smaller than the record feed supplies in 1942-43 and 7 million tons less than in 1943-44 but 1 million tons larger than the 1938-42 average. But reductions now taking place in hog, poultry, sheep, horse, and mule numbers, the feed-grain supply per grain-consuming animal unit on farms next January 1 may be 9 or 10 percent larger than in the crop year 1943-44, and only 5 percent less than the average for 1938-42 when grain supplies were accumulating. The hay crop this year is expected to be the third largest on record, totaling about 99 million tons compared with 99.5 million tons in 1943 and 105.3 million tons in 1942. Hay supplies per hay-consuming animal unit for the year 1944-45 probably will be only slightly smaller than last year, but larger than the ten-year (1933-42) average.



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Condition of Cattle, Sheep, and Ranges  
in Western States Good to Very  
Good on July 1

The condition of cattle in the 17 Western States on July 1 was good to very good. Calf crops are generally good and cattle and calves made above-average gains in May and June. Flint Hills and Osage pastures are well stocked with cattle and a good pasture season is indicated in these areas.

Condition of sheep in the 17 Western States on July 1 was also good to very good. Sheep and lambs in the Northern States have made good gains and have overcome the setbacks of stormy weather and poor feed during the late winter and spring. Marketing of early lambs from the Northwest has been late this year, but marketing will increase in July and August. Late lambs in the northern Rocky Mountains are developing well with favorable feed.

The condition of ranges in the 17 Western States on July 1 was generally good to very good. Arizona and California ranges were only fair. But much improvement has occurred in California ranges which were poor earlier in the season. Pasture condition in the United States on July 1 was reported at 85 percent compared with 88 percent on July 1, 1943, and an average condition for the years 1933-42 of 75 percent.

Slaughter of Cattle and Calves  
Increased in June; Prices for  
Low-Grade Cattle Decline

Slaughter of both cattle and calves under Federal inspection increased in June. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,003,000 head, and calf slaughter was 594,000 head. Cattle slaughter, excluding that in war-duration plants, was only slightly larger than in May but was 34 percent larger than in June 1943. Calf slaughter in comparable plants was 10 percent larger than in May and 79 percent larger than in June 1943. Federally inspected cattle slaughter in comparable plants for the first 6 months of this year was 18 percent larger than the abnormally low slaughter last year, but was 8 percent smaller than slaughter in 1942. Slaughter of calves was 48 percent larger than last year and 4 percent larger than in 1942.

Seasonally increased market receipts of cattle and calves, mainly because of an earlier-than-usual grass cattle movement, caused a sharp down turn in prices of low-grade slaughter and stocker and feeder cattle in late June. Prices for Choice and Prime and Good grade slaughter cattle were little changed. The average price paid for Good grade slaughter steers at Chicago during the week ended July 15 was \$16.23 compared with \$16.26 a month earlier and \$14.97 a year earlier. During the same week the average price for Common steers was \$11.39 compared with \$12.52 a month earlier and \$12.41 for the corresponding week in 1943.

June Hog Slaughter Sets New  
Record for the Month

Hog slaughter under Federal inspection in June totaled 6,095,000 head, a new record for the month. Slaughter in comparable plants showed a 9-percent decrease from May but was 6 percent higher than in June 1943. Farmers experienced considerable difficulty in marketing their hogs in June. Marketings were large in relation to processing and cold-storage capacity. Carry-overs of farmer-owned hogs from day to day at terminal yards were common. However, during the first half of July supplies were smaller, packers competed actively for available supplies, and for the first time this year weekly slaughter was below that of corresponding weeks a year earlier.

Sheep and Lamb Slaughter Sets  
New Record for June; Prices  
Decline from Mid-June to  
Mid-July

Slaughter of sheep and lambs under Federal inspection totaled 1,823,000 head in June, a new record for the month. This larger slaughter was a result of record June marketings of yearlings and sheep from Texas, nearly all of which went for immediate slaughter. May and June slaughter of spring lambs this year was much smaller than in May and June 1943.

Prices of sheep and lambs in late June and early July were seasonally lower. During the week ended July 15, the average price of spring lambs at Kansas City was \$14.35 compared with \$15.36 a month earlier and \$14.60 a year earlier. The average price of ewes at Chicago during the week ended July 15 was \$6.10 compared with \$7.15 a month earlier and \$7.38 for the corresponding week a year ago. Lower July prices for sheep and lambs this year than last resulted from larger marketings and a lower value of sheep pelts. During the week ended July 15, No. 1 shearling pelts at Chicago were quoted at \$1.30 compared with \$2.15 a year earlier; No. 2 pelts were selling for 90 cents, \$1.00 less than last year; and No. 3 pelts were quoted at 70 cents each compared with \$1.00 last year.

Cold-Storage Stocks of Meat Decrease  
in June; WFA Provides Additional  
Cold-Storage Space

There was a seasonal out-movement of meats and edible offals from cold storage in June of 54 million pounds. Meat and edible offal stocks in commercial cold-storage warehouses and packing plants totaled 1,106 million pounds on July 1 compared with average July 1 stocks for the previous 5 years of 721 million pounds. Commercially owned lard and rendered pork fat holdings in cold storage decreased about 12 million pounds in June. Government stocks in commercial cold storage decreased 57 million pounds. Total lard and rendered pork fat stocks in commercial warehouses and meat-packing plants on July 1 amounted to 421 million pounds, 301 million pounds of which was owned by War Food Administration.

Cooler storage space in meat-packing plants for the country as a whole was 96 percent occupied on July 1, the same percentage as a month earlier. Freezer storage space in meat-packing plants was 89 percent occupied on both June 1 and July 1.

War Food Administration has completed arrangements to lease a limestone mine near Atchison, Kansas, which will be converted into a cooler storage warehouse. This cave has a storage capacity of 12 million cubic feet, or enough space to store 3,000 to 3,500 carloads of food. This would increase present commercial cooler storage space in this country by about 9 percent. Parts of this storage space may be in operation by August 1. A Government warehouse of this kind would tend to prevent future shortages of cooler space similar to that which occurred last winter when restrictions were placed upon the storing of lard and some low-valued packing-house byproducts in cooler space for more than 10 days and when storage of some other meat products in cold-storage warehouses was prohibited. Government-owned lard, salted fat cuts, and other cured meats will be among the first items to be stored in this new space.

#### THE WOOL SITUATION

##### 1944 Mid-June Price to Farmers Highest June Price Since 1919

The average price received by farmers for wool was 42 cents a pound in mid-June. This compares with 40.6 cents in May and 41.3 cents in June 1943. The June price this year was the highest reported for any June since 1919, and except for April and May last year -- when dealers and mills contracted large quantities of wool at relatively high prices before the Government purchase program was inaugurated -- the highest of any month since early 1925. Changes in farm prices of wool during the current season probably largely reflect variations in grade, quality, and shrinkage or point of origin. The Commodity Credit Corporation is buying practically all domestic wool of the 1944 clip at specific prices based on grade, quality, and location. Maximum charges which may be deducted by handlers in determining the net price to growers have been specified for all types of services in the Commodity Credit Corporation agreement with handlers.

The average prices received by farmers for wool in mid-June in selected fleece wool and Western wool States, with prices for earlier months for comparison, are shown in table 5. Wools appraised at Boston in June from many of the Western States were reported to be of less than average shrinkage. This would tend to result in higher prices per grease pound.



Table 5.- Shorn Wool: Average mid-month price received by farmers in selected States and U. S. in June 1944 with comparisons

State	1943		1944	
	June	April	May	June
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Fleece wool States				
Ohio .....	46	44	45	45
Indiana .....	47	44	46	47
Michigan .....	46	42	44	46
Minnesota .....	44	40	41	43
Iowa .....	44	41	41	43
Western States				
Montana .....	42	42	42	43
Idaho .....	41	41	41	43
Wyoming .....	36	37	39	41
Colorado .....	38	39	37	39
New Mexico .....	36	37	39	39
Arizona .....	32	37	39	40
Utah .....	36	37	36	38
Nevada .....	37	38	40	41
Washington .....	35	38	39	39
Oregon .....	38	39	39	40
California .....	42	39	41	43
Texas .....	44	39	41	43
United States average ...	41.3	39.7	40.6	42.0

About 129 Million Pounds of 1944  
Clip Appraised Through July 15

Cold and rain hindered shearing this spring and delayed the movement of wool to appraisal centers. Nevertheless, the movement increased sharply in June and early July. About 129 million pounds of 1944 shorn wool had been appraised by July 15. Shorn wool production this year is expected to be somewhat smaller than last year's clip of 384 million pounds because of a 7 percent reduction in sheep numbers from January 1, 1943, to January 1, 1944, and reports of lighter fleece weights in many Western States. About 42 percent of 1944 shorn wool appraised through July 15 was territory wool, about 25 percent was fleece wool, and 32 percent was wool appraised in Texas. Appraisal of 1944 pulled wool through July 15 totaled 31 million pounds, actual weight, and were equivalent to about 37 million pounds on a greasy pulled basis.

From the beginning of the Government purchase program, April 1943, through June 24, 1944, the Commodity Credit Corporation had purchase 355 million pounds of domestic shorn and pulled wool (actual weight). Sales during the same period totaled 160 million pounds. Sales have increased following the recent award of new Army orders which in many cases specify the use of domestic wool, but Commodity Credit Corporation carry-over stocks of fine grades of 1943 wool are still relatively large.



UNRRA Appropriation Provides Funds  
for Purchase of Domestic Wool

A possible outlet for some of the Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of domestic wool was provided through Congressional action on the appropriations Bill for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration. An amendment added to this Bill shortly before its passage provides that not to exceed \$21,700,000 shall be available for the procurement of domestic raw wool from the stockpile of the United States Government. At a average selling price of 46 cents a pound, grease basis, which was the average appraisal value of greasy shorn wool sold by the CCC from the beginning of the Government program through June 24, 1944, the funds provided in the Act would purchase close to 50 million pounds of domestic wool.

This wool presumably would be used in relief fabrics to be purchased by UNRRA. Until the funds were definitely earmarked for the purchase of domestic wool it appeared likely that relief fabrics would be made largely of foreign wool because of the lower prices of such wool.

WFO-50 Amendment Imposes 50-Mile  
Limit on Direct Purchases by Mills

War Food Order 50 (wool) was amended effective June 30 to (1) permit larger purchases (up to 3,000 pounds) of wool by secondary handlers; (2) permit producers to sell off-grade wool direct to the trade, (3) include Maryland and Virginia in the restricted sales area, and (4) limit manufacturers' purchases of shorn wool direct from producers to a radius of 50 miles of the manufacture's mill or plant. WFO 50 (previously designated as FDO 50) as originally issued, established the Commodity Credit Corporation as essentially the sole purchaser of domestic wool effective April 25, 1943. On June 11, 1943, the order was amended to exempt shorn wool produced in 19 States along the Atlantic Coast and in the Cotton Belt from the requirement that wool be sold only to the CCC. These States included all of the New England States and New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Under Amendment 2, Maryland and Virginia have been removed from the unrestricted area and wool from those States must be sold to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The amended order makes selling of off-grade wools to the CCC optional with producers who may, if they prefer, pack such wool separately and sell them through the usual channels of trade. Off-grade wools include tags, crutchings, clippings, eyebrows, face wool, corral sweepings, Texas baby lamb's wool, murrain dead wool, and pulled dead wool. Under WFO 50 manufacturers have been permitted to purchase shorn wool direct from producers wherever located, and to purchase pulled wool from producers located within a radius of 50 miles of the manufacturer's mill or plant. The amended order makes the 50-mile limitation applicable to both shorn and pulled wool. It also specifically provides that such purchases must be made direct from producers and not through dealers, brokers, warehouse men, or cooperative associations.

Smaller Clearance at Recent  
Sales of Stockpile Wool

The 9th and 10th auction sales of Defense Supplies Corporation stockpile wools were held at Boston on June 22 and July 13. Offerings totaled 18.7 million pounds on June 22 and 15.5 million pounds on July 13 -- somewhat more than has usually been offered at the semi-monthly sales. The wool was mostly Australian, but included about 6 million pounds of South African wool which had been obtained from the British Government in exchange for certain types of Australian wool. Only 42 percent of the Australian wools and 20 percent of the South African wools were sold; sales for the two days totaling 13 million pounds. Clearances in June and early July were smaller than during the early months of the sales. From February -- when the sales began -- through May about 65 percent of offerings of Australian wool and all South American wools were sold. Sales of stockpile wool from February through July -- the first 6 months of the sales -- totaled about 102 million pounds, grease basis. This included 82 million pounds of Australian wool, 19 million pounds of South American wool, and about 1 million pounds of South African wool. Stockpile wools are said to contain a considerable amount of burry wool and types which are not being used in large quantities at the present time.

Stockpile Purchases Equivalent to Little More Than  
One-Fourth of Current Mill Use of Foreign Wool

Consumption of foreign apparel wool by U. S. mills so far in 1944 has averaged about 14 million pounds a week or at a rate of about 364 million pounds for a six-month period. This is 3.5 times as large as stockpile purchases during the 6 months of sales. Stockpile wools are largely fine Australian wools and these purchases probably have supplied a large part of mill requirements for fine grades. Direct purchases of Australian wool have been greatly reduced during the period of stockpile sales. Commercial reports indicate that about 55 million pounds of Australian wool were purchased from the British Wool Control by U. S. buyers from February through June. For the entire 1943-44 season, ended June 30, commercial reports indicate that purchases totaled close to 200 million pounds.

United States mills are using large quantities of medium grade foreign wools which are obtained by direct imports, largely from South America. Shipments from Argentina and Uruguay to the United States totaled approximately 230 million pounds in the first 9 months of the current season (October-June). This total included some carpet type wools from Argentina. Lack of shipping space has delayed shipment of South American purchases in the current season, particularly in Uruguay.

Mill Consumption Down Slightly in May  
High Rate Expected in Second Half of 1944

Mill consumption of apparel wool averaged 11.69 million pounds a week (scoured basis) in May compared with 11.73 million pounds in April. The May rate of consumption was 4 percent smaller than in May 1943. Consumption of apparel wool in the first 5 months of the year was at an annual rate of 610



million pounds, scoured basis. This compares with an annual rate of 623 million pounds during the corresponding months last year and a total of 592 million pounds for the entire year 1943. Only 24 percent of apparel wool consumed from January through May this year was domestic wool, compared with 41 percent in the same months last year.

In view of present military contracts, prospects appear favorable for maintaining the current high rate of mill consumption during the second half of 1944 provided labor requirements can be met. Consumption of apparel wool was at a record high level in the first quarter of 1943 and then trended sharply downward through December. The decline was largely due to the decline in production of military fabrics which was not fully offset by the increase in production of civilian fabrics. Production of military fabrics, however, leveled off during the early months of 1944 and the continued increase in the production of civilian fabrics resulted in a considerable increase in wool consumption early in 1944.

High Rate of Consumption Has Been  
Maintained Despite Declining  
Labor Force

Although mill consumption of apparel wool has been maintained at a high level through most of the last two years, the number of workers in the woolen and worsted industry has declined almost continuously since December 1941. The number employed in May 1944, the latest month for which figures are available, was 152,100. This compared with 169,800 in May 1943 and the peak of 192,000 in December 1941. The decline in number of workers since 1941 has been partly offset by increased working hours. But total man hours per week in May 1944 (number of workers times average hours per week) were 9 percent less than a year earlier and 17 percent less than in December 1941. . . .

Among the factors which have contributed to the maintenance of a high rate of consumption despite a rapid decline in labor force are (1) long runs on staple military fabrics which require few adjustments and permit a high efficiency in operations, (2) high wool content of military fabrics which results in a larger consumption of wool per machine hour than work on blended fabrics of wool and other fibers, and, since the latter part of 1942, (3) the greater percentage of medium grade wools in the total consumption with heavier yarns and greater weight per spindle hour.

One difficulty of increasing working hours at this time, to offset declines in labor personnel, lies in the lack of balance of production schedules in integrated mills. Reports from some of the large worsted mills indicate that in the early preparatory stages (carding and combing) departments are already working approximately a 52-hour week per worker, the spinning departments a 48-hour week, and the finishing sections a 40-hour week. During the summer months vacation periods are likely to curtail operations. Many New England mills were reported closed for vacation and necessary repairs during the week of July 4.

Data on Production of Woven Fabrics  
Reflect Shift from Military to  
Civilian Production

Data on production of woolen and worsted woven fabrics for the first quarter of 1944, reflect the shift in production from military to civilian goods during the past year. Production of all woven goods containing by weight 25 percent or more wool fiber (except woven felts) totaled 139.4 million linear yards in the first quarter of 1944. This compares with 135.5 million yards in the previous quarter and 134.1 million yards in the first quarter of 1943. Yardage output of men's wear fabrics and blankets -- which include the principal military fabrics -- was 13 percent smaller in the first quarter of 1944 than in the same months of 1943. Production of women's and children's wear fabrics from January through March this year was 64 percent larger than in the same months last year. Production of women's and children's wear was small in relation to consumer demand during 1942 and 1943 and shortages of many items were reported. Because of the shortages, special efforts were made by the War Production Board to obtain increased production of civilian fabrics.

Table 6.- Wool Goods: Production of woolen and worsted woven fabrics by use, United States, quarterly average 1939, 1942, and by quarters 1943-44

Item	Quarterly		1943					
	average							
	1939 1/	1942	Jan.-	Apr.-	July-	Oct.-	Jan.-	
			Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	
	linear	linear	linear	linear	linear	linear	linear	
	yards	yards	yards	yards	yards	yards	yards	
Apparel fabrics								
Men's wear .....	44.7	69.3	67.2	67.3	59.9	62.5	61.6	
Women's and children's wear	26.8	26.9	28.0	30.4	33.3	40.4	46.0	
General use 2/ .....	6.4	15.8	10.7	11.2	11.8	10.4	10.7	
All other apparel .....	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.2	1.2	1.3	
Non-apparel fabrics (except								
woven felts)								
Blankets, 98 percent or								
more wool .....	3/	3/	17.2	18.0	17.4	13.7	12.7	
Blankets, 25 percent but								
less than 98 percent .....	3/	3/	7.2	4.8	5.0	6.0	5.5	
Total blankets .....	4.9	16.0	24.4	22.8	22.4	19.7	18.2	
All other non-apparel .....	7.8	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.6	
Total woven fabrics .....	93.0	131.9	134.1	135.3	131.6	135.5	139.4	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	
Woven felts .....	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.4	

Compiled from Bureau of the Census, "Facts for Industry", reports.

1/ The data for 1939 are based on the Biennial Census of Manufactures. Because of different methods of classification, they are not strictly comparable with statistics for later years which were obtained from quarterly reports from manufacturers. 2/ Includes melton, mackinaw, snow, and ski suit cloth, linings and interlinings and bath robe flannels. 3/ Not reported separately.



Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species,  
June 1944, with comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan.-May : 1943 :				1944	
		1942	1943	1944	June	May	June
<b>Cattle and calves -</b>							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection;							
Steers .....	Thous.	2,555	2,330	2,790	399	560	474
Cows and heifers .....	"	1,988	1,804	2,172	273	372	461
All cattle .....	"	4,719	4,275	5,168	708	989	1,003
Percentage cows and heifers are of total cattle .....	Pct.	42.1	42.2	42.0	38.6	37.6	46.0
Calves .....	Thous.	2,295	1,774	2,570	327	541	594
Average live weight:							
Cattle .....	Lb.	974	979	972	972	953	925
Calves .....	"	183	170	173	176	181	202
Total dressed weight:							
Cattle .....	Mil. lb.	2,524	2,304	2,693	388	512	490
Calves .....	"	236	169	246	33	55	67
Shipments of feeder cattle and calves to eight Corn Belt States 1/ .....	Thous.	574	568	394	81	74	106
<b>Hogs -</b>							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection .....	"	22,373	24,247	35,317	5,650	6,643	6,095
Average live weight .....	Lb.	237	254	244	260	239	245
Percentage packing sows are of: all purchases at seven markets:	Pct.	6	6	6	14	6	13
Total production under Federal inspection:							
Pork .....	Mil. lb.	3,005	3,577	4,809	854	872	811
Lard 2/ .....	"	726	763	1,237	191	241	232
Average yield per hog:							
Pork .....	Lb.	134.7	147.8	136.5	151.4	131.5	133.4
Lard 2/ .....	"	32.5	31.5	35.1	33.9	36.3	38.1
Storage stocks end of month:							
Pork .....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	514	769	3/ 800
Lard 2/ .....	"	---	---	---	221	490	3/ 421
<b>Sheep and Lambs -</b>							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection .....	Thous.	7,731	7,798	8,044	1,594	1,694	1,823
Average live weight .....	Lb.	94	93	93	88	88	82
Total dressed weight .....	Mil. lb.	333	333	339	66	68	69
Shipments of feeder lambs to eight Corn Belt States 1/ .....	Thous.	708	923	504	151	118	89
<b>Total dressed weight of live-stock slaughtered under Federal inspection .....</b>							
	Mil. lb.	7,093	7,431	9,780	1,603	1,836	1,754

1/ Total shipments direct and from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

2/ Including rendered pork fat.

3/ Preliminary, June data are not comparable with earlier figures.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), by species,  
June 1944, with comparisons

Item	1943		June		1944		
	annual:		1932-41:				
	average:	average:	1942	1943	Apr.	May	June
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
<u>Cattle and calves</u> -							
Beef steers sold out of							
first hands at Chicago:							
Choice and Prime .....	16.23	9.87	14.09	16.35	16.37	16.61	17.11
Good .....	15.34	8.94	13.12	15.50	15.33	15.73	16.23
Medium .....	14.01	7.96	12.07	14.35	13.84	14.47	14.73
Common .....	11.66	6.73	10.89	12.78	11.65	12.58	12.19
All grades .....	15.30	8.91	13.11	15.56	15.04	15.44	16.06
Good grade cows at Chicago:	12.98	6.38	10.70	13.44	13.16	13.40	13.33
Vealers: Good and Choice :							
at Chicago .....	15.18	8.05	14.45	15.17	15.00	15.15	15.38
Stocker and feeder steers :							
at Kansas City .....	12.35	6.80	11.83	14.38	12.76	12.84	11.65
Average price paid by							
packers:							
All cattle .....	12.22	6.90	11.40	13.66	12.76	12.80	12.15
Steers .....	1/	1/	12.56	14.82	14.46	14.66	14.92
Calves .....	12.28	7.07	12.42	14.14	12.95	12.72	12.40
<u>Hogs</u> -							
Average market price at							
Chicago:							
Barrows and gilts .....	14.49	1/	14.26	13.95	13.66	13.16	13.11
Sows .....	13.71	1/	13.82	13.38	12.74	11.01	10.76
All purchases .....	14.31	7.20	14.19	13.85	13.53	12.91	12.66
Average price paid by							
packers .....	14.11	7.08	14.05	13.61	13.40	12.84	12.57
Average price No. 3 Yellow:							
corn at Chicago 2/ .....	104.6	65.1	84.6	106.1	3/115.5	3/115.5	3/115.5
Hog-corn price ratio at							
Chicago 4/ .....	13.7	11.3	16.8	13.1	11.7	11.2	11.0
<u>Sheep and lambs</u> -							
Spring lambs, Good and							
Choice grade at Chicago ..	---	9.67	15.13	---	---	---	15.20
Spring lambs, Good and							
Choice grade at Kansas							
City .....	---	9.09	14.61	14.92	---	15.49	14.89
Ewes, shorn, Good and							
Choice grade at Chicago ..	---	3.11	6.11	7.63	---	6.93	6.79
Average price paid by							
packers for sheep and							
lambs .....	12.20	8.29	12.59	12.53	14.88	12.57	11.68
Index retail meat prices 5/:	115.0	80.3	108.9	118.9	111.8	112.0	
Index income of industrial							
workers 6/ .....	239	76	184	238	246		

1/ Not available. 2/ Cents per bushel. 3/ Represents ceiling price. 4/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs. 5/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base. 6/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1924-29 = 100.

## Prices per pound of wool and other textile fibers, United States, 1941-44

Item	Annual average : 1943 :						
	1941 : 1942 : 1943 : June : April : May : June						
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Prices received by farmers, grease :							
basis, 15th of month .....	35.5	40.1	41.6	41.3	39.7	40.6	42.0
Boston market -							
Territory - scoured basis :							
64s, 70s, 80s staple combing ...	108.8	119.1	117.8	119.5	119.0	119.0	119.0
56s combing .....	91.2	102.6	104.2	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5
Bright fleece, greasy -							
64s, 70s, 80s delaine .....	43.1	47.2	46.9	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
56s combing .....	46.8	51.8	54.2	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5
Foreign wool, in bond							
Scoured basis							
Sydney 64s, 70s good combing ....	72.7	78.1	76.5	76.5	76.5	76.5	76.5
Cape 12 months, combing .....	70.9	75.6	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.5
Grease basis -							
Montevideo 60-64s .....	40.4	43.0	41.4	42.5	39.5	39.5	39.5
Montevideo 1s (56s) .....	38.6	42.5	41.4	42.5	41.5	41.5	41.5
Other textile fibers:							
Cotton, 15/16-inch Middling <u>1/</u> ...	13.9	19.3	20.6	21.1	21.0	21.0	21.5
Rayon staple fiber <u>2/</u>							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier .....	25.0	25.0	<u>3/24.4</u>	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier .....	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0

Domestic wool prices are from the War Food Administration, foreign wool prices are from the Boston Commercial Bulletin, and are before payment of duty.

1/ Average at 10 markets.

2/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3/ Revised.

## Wool: Mill consumption in the United States, 1942-44

Item	Total		Weekly average				
	1942	1943	Jan.-May		May	April	May
			1943	1944	1943 <u>1/</u>	1944 <u>1/</u>	1944 <u>1/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>	<u>1b.</u>
Grease basis <u>2/</u>							
Apparel wool							
Domestic .....	540,748	430,456	10,215	5,820	7,762	5,539	6,052
Foreign .....	536,536	630,968	11,530	14,460	13,770	14,645	14,346
Total .....	1,077,284	1,061,424	21,745	20,280	21,532	20,184	20,398
Carpet wool .....	60,840	43,732	907	1,166	815	1,276	1,330
Scoured basis							
Apparel wool							
Domestic .....	244,504	203,580	4,862	2,773	3,726	2,660	2,790
Foreign .....	326,976	388,284	7,119	8,949	8,482	9,072	8,904
Total .....	571,480	591,864	11,981	11,722	12,208	11,732	11,694
Carpet wool .....	43,940	32,240	663	871	600	956	1,002

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ 4-week period.

2/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool is in condition received from pullers and is partly washed.



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